

## Progressive Democrats Win 6th District Town Committee Election

The Progressive Democrats (Slate B) swept to victory in Tuesday's 6th District Democratic Town Committee election. The slate's 14 candidates, most of whom are incumbents, were the 14 highest vote get-

ters, thus earning them all seats on the town committee. A total of 42 candidates from three slates ran in the election.

The top vote-getters were: Hyacinth Yennie (344), Kelly Bilodeau (329), Alex

Rodriguez (322), Jackie Nadal (316), Lillie Parker (316), Jason Diaz (313), Carl Williams (311), Kate Kowalyshyn (309), Tyrone Walker (309), Pedro Torres (304), Eli Joseph (300), Patricia Miles (298), Juan

Rodriguez (293) and Agnes Perez-Flores (291).

The next highest vote-getters were Carmen Sierra with 270, Milly Arcinegas with 254 and Maly Rosado with 245.

# The Hartford News

March 5 – 11, 2020



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Democratic National Delegate Workshop TONIGHT

The Connecticut Democratic Party will hold a Democratic National Committee (DNC) Delegate Workshop on Thursday, March 5, from 5:30 PM – 7 pm at Connecticut Democratic Party Headquarters, 30 Arbor Street, Suite 106A, Hartford. The purpose of the meeting is to walk interested Democrats through the process of becoming a 2020 DNC delegate to this summer's Democratic Convention in Milwaukee. Please RSVP to <https://ctdems.org/events>.

### Free Mammograms Friday & Saturday

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is bringing its fight against breast cancer to uninsured and underserved women in Hartford, CT. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Mobile Mammography Unit will be available to provide free screenings on Friday, March 6 from 8 am – 5 pm at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. The unit will also be available for screenings on Saturday, March 7 at the Wilson Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center, 444 Albany Ave., Hartford, CT from 8 am – 5 pm. Individuals who are uninsured and interested in getting a mammogram should register first at [www.assured-imaging.com/AKA](http://www.assured-imaging.com/AKA) or call 888-233-6121.

### Clean-up in Honor of Evelyn Richardson Saturday on Enfield St.

A clean-up in honor of well-known and much-loved community activist and gardener Evelyn Richardson will be held from 9:30 - 12 noon this Saturday, March 7, starting from the Community Garden at 122 Enfield Street, Hartford. Volunteers will help clean the street and garden in preparation for spring planting. Richardson passed away tragically in December of last year. The clean-up is being held in honor of what would have been her birthday and is a joint effort between Unity Community Outreach Corp., Knox Parks and the Daughters of Eve/Sons of Adam.

### Career Open House at City Hall Saturday

The City of Hartford will host an open house this Saturday, March 7, from 11 am -2 pm at City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford. Representatives from several city departments will be on hand to

Continued on page 6



## Dominican Independence Celebration

*Karime Pimental and Juana Lopez pose in front of a giant flag of the Dominican Republic that was unfurled at Hartford City Hall Saturday afternoon for Dominican Independence Day. Smaller Dominican flags were handed out at the event, much to the delight of Jeannibel Tejeda (right). Before the event, the Dominican flag was officially raised over the State Capitol. The Dominican Republic gained independence from Haiti on February 27, 1844. The country has the oldest cathedral in the Western Hemisphere and the highest mountain in the Caribbean. (Hart photo)*



## Hartford...Once Upon a Time



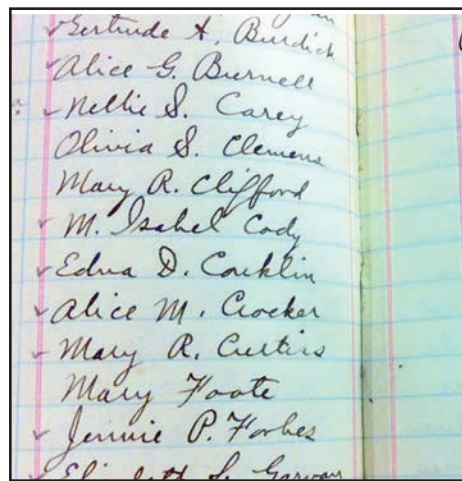
*A sad tale of boom and bust lies behind this photo of the Main Street Market at the corner of Main and Asylum Streets in Downtown Hartford sometime in the 1990s. In the late 1980s, the real estate market in Connecticut was booming. Executives at the old Society for Savings decided it would be a good time to add another skyscraper to Hartford's skyline. The proposed 45-floor building would be designed by famed architect Cesar Pelli and located at the corner of Main and Asylum, adjacent to Society's headquarters on Pratt Street. Unfortunately, this would mean demolishing the building that then occupied the site: the 11-story Hartford Aetna Bank Building, which had been the city's tallest building when it opened in 1912. Despite its historic value, the building was demolished in April 1990 to make space for Society's new skyscraper – and then? And then Connecticut's real estate market collapsed. The bust hit Society for Savings particularly hard (it lost \$64 million in 1991) and it was acquired by Bank of Boston in 1992. Needless to say, the new skyscraper was never built. The Main Street Market opened at the site in 1992 and lasted for about a decade. Today, the corner of Main and Asylum is occupied by a surface parking lot and a small convenience store. (Hartford News file photo)*

## A Hidden Gem

*The HPHS Museum & Archive is home to a wealth of city history*

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Lost...and found. Hartford Public High School, the second-oldest public secondary school in the United States was founded in 1638, just three years after the founding of Hartford. Although it has gone through several incarnations of structure and name, and a devastating 1882 fire that destroyed its first Asylum Hill location causing the loss of historical records and artifacts dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, there is a thriving, comprehensive, ever-evolving, and well-maintained museum and archive at the school's 55 Forest Street location. The steward, docent, and preservationist is the remarkably dedicated and energetic archivist R. Luke Williams, whose love of history and all things HPHS has created a fascinating space in that building adjacent to the city's storied Nook Farm, where researchers and visitors are welcomed (by appointment). Williams is quick to give credit for the scope of the collections to citizens of Hartford—alumni, educators, and historians who donated copies of student records, monthly reports, graphics, artworks, paintings, school publications, science paraphernalia, statuary, architectural fragments, antique furnishings, and more. In 1995, photograph collections, antique books and manuscripts, and dinosaur footprint fossils which had not been on view since the razing of the old school at Broad and Hopkins Streets in 1962, were once again prominently displayed.



*Olivia Clemens, daughter of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), is among the names listed in this 1888 HPHS grade book.*

Copies of student records dating back to the 1800s are there for perusal, including those of two of Mark Twain's daughters—Olivia and Clara Clemens, who attended the school from 1887-1889. J.P. Morgan studied there, along with members of some of Hartford's "first families": Hooker, Warner, Beecher, Twichell, Batterson, Perkins, and Fox. In the mid-19th century, HPHS also educated 25 Chinese boys from the Chinese Educational Mission, and

Continued on page 4





## Hartford Small Business Night Out is a Sellout

*Hartford Small Business Night Out (HSBNO) held its 7th annual Black Business Gala on Saturday, February 29, at Marquee Events, 960 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. The Hartford Seventh Day Adventist Youth Choir (above) entertained the sell-out crowd at the event with a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. At this year's gala, HSBNO presented awards to Alisha Bowens Mercado, Bilal Apolabi, DeVaughn Ward, Gerald Grate, Kim Hawkins, Norman Oates and Chefs Stella & Mazie. (Hart photo)*

# “Reconstituting”

## What fresh hell is in store for some of Hartford’s public schools?

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

I grew up drinking frozen orange juice. You had to add water to a lump of orange mush, and then stir it up to bring it back to its original liquid form. The little cans it came in carried the word “reconstituted”. Some other foods that are reconstituted include instant mashed potatoes and bouillon cubes; you have to add water. So when I heard that HPHS and two other city schools are being reconstituted, I had to ask around to see exactly what that meant, and this is what I got: All teachers, staff, and administrators have been mandated to reapply for their jobs. They’re already in the process of doing that, and it will likely be near or after the end of the semester before they find out whether or not they’ll still have a job when the new school year begins. We can assume this is stressful and disconcerting for those who may be pushed, and others who will decide to just jump. It happened before several years ago, and two of my friends who were school librarians in Hartford spent some miserable months of unknowing. One didn’t find out she was being retained until the end of summer vacation, and the other took a librarian job in another town instead of waiting around to see if the axe would fall.

Having employees reapply for their jobs is fairly common practice in government during a regime change. Mayors, governors, and presidents all have several positions in their administrations that are appointed and serve “at their pleasure”. That’s not the

case here. Reconstituting public schools has been a “thing” for more than 25 years now, and by all accounts, it’s an initiative—a “fix”—that hasn’t proved to be what it’s cracked up to be. There’s a lot about it on the internet, and everything I read indicated that reconstitution has been, in most cases, an experiment that has failed. In some schools it’s resulted in a wholesale “purge” of the staff, followed by mass replacement. A marked drop in morale is common among educators working in schools that have decided to reconstitute. As for the students, the loss of the relationship with a counselor or teacher or coach who has become a trusted mentor can be devastating and even undo motivation and accumulated academic progress.

So Hartford has apparently latched on to the premise that underperforming public schools (and our city has several) will benefit from reconstituting, in spite of all the data to the contrary, and it is unclear if the parents of city schoolchildren have been notified of this plan which is now a reality. True to form, the media has, up to this point, also been kept in the dark. We all know how hard HPS and the Superintendent of Schools work to downplay and even cover up anything that reflects negatively on the system. Central Office and those who “toil” there dwell in a self-congratulatory and generously compensated La-La

Continued on page 6

## THE HARTFORD NEWS

Publishers .....Jon Harden  
.....Lynne Lumsden

Managing Editor .....Andy Hart  
Advertising Manager .....Josephine Finocchiaro  
Copy Editor/Staff Writer...Anne Goshdigian  
Spanish Editor .....Wilfredo Ayala  
Contributing Writers.....Mike McGarry  
.....David Samuels  
.....Donna Swarr  
.....Tom Swarr

**Published by Southside Media**  
563 Franklin Ave., Hartford, CT 06114  
(860) 296-6128 FAX 866-875-3785 • E-Mail:  
hartfordnews@aol.com  
The Hartford News is published weekly on Thursday by Gamut Publishing, Inc. The publisher does not assume responsibility for errors, omissions, and changes in advertising or editorial material. Advertising rates are available upon request. Deadlines: Advertisements, news releases and articles must be submitted by 5 pm on Monday for publication on Thursday. Rights and Permissions: The entire contents of the Hartford News are copyright 2006 by Gamut Publishing, and no portion may be reproduced in whole or in part by any means without specific written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Letters and Submissions: Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Writers must sign their names and must give an address and a telephone number for verification, although neither address or telephone number will be published. Unsolicited submissions are welcome but must be accompanied with an SASE if return is desired.



# Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues  
Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## CT Republicans Headed for Disaster

It looks like the Democratic Party is coming to its senses with Joe Biden increasingly looking like he’ll be their candidate in November.

Republicans, however, are stuck with President Trump running again, despite his lies, backstabbing, poor behavior and the looming release of his tax returns (if he had nothing to hide he would have released them by now). The elimination of much of the federal mechanisms that were in place to deal with dangerous diseases – right in time for the rapidly spreading Corona Virus – should cap the story.

What is left to argue about are the few issues that Trump’s followers cling to: a good economy, pro-life stances, appointing some sensible judges, a truce in Afghanistan. But, piece by piece, Trumps behavior clouds and shrouds all discussion. Most people, even his supporters, wish his handlers (who are they?) would take away his cell phone.

So, if recent history is any indication, 2020 will be another electronic disaster for Connecticut Republicans. The idea that an unpopular governor will help retain and even add to the number of Republican House and Senate seats is disappearing as issues like tolls and mar-

ijuana legalization fade away in this short session. Governor Lamont is not running in 2020 – President Trump is.

As the State Republican Party blindly follows a man with no moral base, no intention to follow traditional Republican principles and continues to make mincemeat of necessary government functions (many of which were Republican initiatives), it adds to its own doomsday.

A Goldwater 1964-style debacle is coming the GOP’s way in Connecticut. Not only did we lose dramatically in the last state-wide election, but the threat of Republicans leaving the state continues to add to the coming catastrophe.

However, many Democratic office holders bemoan the one-party state we have now and will continue to have for the foreseeable future. The power of individual representatives and senators is vastly diminished when there are too many from one side. Be careful what you wish for.

So maybe it’s too late. But we old warhorses in the party of Lincoln can always hope for a last minute resignation.

# In My Opinion

## Justice For Ben Rosado: CVH Whiting Racists Must Be Held Accountable

BY DAVID SAMUELS

The Whiting Forensic Connecticut Valley Hospital task force has received numerous reports of racism and workplace bullying from CVH Whiting employees. I reported a racially motivated bullying incident. Task force co-chair Mike Lawlor recently refused whistleblower Caroline Howard’s request to speak in front of the task force; I informed Sen. Heather Somers about this. Independent oversight of CVH Whiting in the form of an Office of Inspector General is essential. The task force scheduled a public hearing for 2020. We requested that employees be allowed to testify anonymously. A source told me that the hearing will take place at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford sometime after the 2020 legislative session ends May 6th. Sen. Somers asks CVH Whiting employees who have complaints about workplace bullying to email her at heatherssomers@gmail.com. Your identity will be protected. We have a window of opportunity to change things because Whiting whistleblower Ben Rosado had the courage to speak up. CVH Whiting killed him for it.

Management, racist employees and all workplace bullies on the CVH Whiting campus have Rosado’s blood on their hands. The best way to honor Rosado’s memory is to fight for radical policy changes at CVH Whiting.

My barber recently told me about his experience growing up in the Jim Crow south. One of his family members was lynched. He told me that white racists would have come to lynch me first, because I speak out about racism. It wasn’t a put-down. This was the grim reality that he faced, every day. They would have had to come for me, because I refuse to be a bootlicker like some of my Black CVH co-workers. Cowardice won’t make me cozy up to white bigots that I work with.

A house negro at my job recently tried to bully me but this same person was texting me a few months ago, because she was so terrified of being alone with one of the bigots. She’s now performing like a trained seal for her oppressors, acting like she’s best friends with the same racist who had her cowering in fear. This bootlicker has beef with me because I told

Continued on page 6



Op-Ed – 2021 CITY BUDGET

City Lacks Follow Through. And It Shows.

COMMENTARY BY DONNA SWARR

Everybody loves getting a cute little puppy – except when it has to go out for a walk at 6:00 a.m. on a freezing cold morning.

In much the same way, the City of Hartford is fond of trotting out nice new programs and passing much needed ordinances, but all too often it fails to allocate adequate personnel and resources to support those programs and enforce those ordinances.

One of the most visible results is a filthy city. Why? Because we are still seriously low on inspectors; building inspectors, health inspectors, sanitation inspectors and blight inspectors. Our sanitation crews and park maintenance crews have been cut to the bone. Over the past four years, the city has invested between 7-10 million dollars in our parks, but when something gets vandalized – nada – no recourse. We need vandals to be prosecuted and penalized and parks employees available to clean up the mess. Our recreation centers provide very little programming in comparison to other cities and towns in Connecticut. Why? Because there are only 2 full-time employees. They have little time for planning and finding grants as they are responsible for the management of part-time employees. I believe that the emergency homeless shelter should have someone at the Health and Human Services Department oversee its work to ensure that it meets our expectations. We don't need tougher laws, we need tougher enforcement, and that means increased staffing.

We need the police to do more than address shootings. We need them to enforce all the laws. Don't bother with new ordinances unless there is staffing to carry out oversight. We have a plethora of cars driving around without registration and insurance. In surrounding towns, these drivers are usually caught after being

pulled over for running a stop sign or not wearing a seat belt. In Hartford, the police let these infractions slide all too often. Why? And the gangs of wackadoos on dirt bikes and ATVs continue to drive up and down our streets on sunny days with no regard for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists, let alone the law. Someone told me they saw about 15 of these vehicles run a red light at a busy intersection while an elderly couple struggled to cross the street. What lesson does this teach our kids? That breaking the law and endangering others has no consequences?

Utility work in our city goes unsupervised. The work is shoddy, it would never be tolerated in any of our neighboring towns. Poles are installed leaving clumps of macadam and dirt strewn around and reduce the width of sidewalks to less than ADA requirements. And we wonder why people in motorized wheelchairs are in the road? Frontier boxes spring up without any notice. Our roads are nothing more than a patchwork of sunken squares.

As discussion of the City's 2020-2021 budget gets underway, I am going to make my voice heard – and I hope you will too. I want my tax dollars used to re-stabilize our community. No more pie in the sky, too wonderful for words projects. I want results I can see and measure. I never hear any metrics of success for these programs. They don't track a single thing. There is no data. But there is quite a lot of evidence demonstrating how filthy and unsafe our city has become.

Specifically, I am asking the City Council to look closely at the number of inspectors in each department over a 10 year period. Look for ways to increase those positions, add staffing to the traffic police, and yes, more park maintenance workers in the 2020/2021 budget.



KNOX Greenhouse Party

On Friday, February 21, KNOX, Inc. hosted its annual 75 Degree Urban Greenhouse Party at the organization's greenhouses off Laurel Street. Entertainment was provided by several Night Fall performers, including Savana Jones (above), who is also a member of the KNOX, Inc. Board of Directors. (Hart photo)

VIEW FROM THE PARKS

Events in Our Parks and Rec Centers

<https://www.facebook.com/viewfromtheparks/>

7-Mar	Birding Basics \$ Sat 9 AM -	Great River Park East Hartford
8-Mar	Full Moon Hike \$ Sunday 6 PM	Riverside Park
11-Mar	Greenhouse Show Tours Free & Reception \$ Wed 9 AM	Elizabeth Park
11-Mar	The Nature of Gardening at NYBG by Todd Forrest   A Lecture \$ Wed 11 AM -	Pond House Café Eliz Park
14-Mar	Greenhouse Bulb & Plant Sale Sat 10 AM	Elizabeth Park
14-Mar	Natural Kids \$ Sat 10 AM -	Riverside Park
14-Mar	The 49th Annual Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade Sat 11 AM -	Main Street/Bushnell Arch
15-Mar	Eagle Exploration \$ Sun 3 PM -	Charter Oak Landing
18-Mar	EPIC Program \$ Wed 8:45 AM -	Riverfront Boathouse
19-Mar	Spring Equinox Mindful Hike \$ Thu 5:30 PM -	Riverside Park
22-Mar	Colt Park Spring Celebration - spring bulb display Sun 12:30 PM	Wethersfield Ave Entrance Colt Park
22-Mar	O'Hartford 5K \$ Sun 1 PM -	Colt Gateway
22-Mar	World Water Day Citizen Science Workshop Sun 1 PM -	Great River Park East Hartford
26-Mar	Owl Prowl \$ Thu 8 PM -	Riverside Park

Heroin Overdoses: Another Approach

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

The following letter to the *Hartford Courant* has been repeatedly rejected for publication. It's a provocative response to the scourge of heroin overdoses. I believe that the thought at least deserves to be included in the discussion. I have discussed this with state representatives and small-town mayors and the response has been interesting — lukewarm but no one wants to publicly discuss the idea. That is unfortunate because there is no end to these needless deaths.

The article, "Fatal Overdoses Reach Peak," Feb. 15, states that Fentanyl is the likely source of this scourge and increase in mortality. It's uncontrolled. The profits make it a permanent added component to the crisis.

Let's give decriminalization of heroin a try. Here are the pluses and no minuses.

1. Allow confirmed addicts to use controlled heroin in clinics using clean needles. That would end overdoses by those self-administering in clinics.

2. Infectious disease levels would decrease.

3. Profits from drug gangs would decrease.

4. Reduced incarceration rate would likely be a byproduct and save money on prisons.
5. Burglaries and robberies would go down.

Heroin addicts often spend a lifetime going in and out of rehab programs. I know this because an addict was once married to a family member. If they live long enough, they outgrow their addictions. The introduction of synthetic Fentanyl is a game-changer. It's a killer that won't end.

What Will Hartford Be Like on its 400th Anniversary? You Decide!

The City of Hartford, the iQuilt Partnership and other organizations are currently developing a plan for Hartford based on the theme of Hartford's 400th Anniversay, which will take place in 2035. The City of Hartford Plan 2035 has five major components: Green, Play, Live, Move and Grow.

In order to gather public input on the plan, public meetings on each theme will be held next month.

- Play400

Monday, March 9; 6:15 - 8:00 pm; Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street, Hartford
- Live400

Tuesday, March 17; 5:30 - 7 pm; CREC Central, Rooms 101 & 102, 111 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford
- Move400

Wednesday, March 18; 11:00 am - 12:30 pm; CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford
- Grow400

Monday, March 23; 6:30 - 8:00 pm; ReSet, 1429 Park Street, Hartford

Monday, March 30; 6:00 - 8:00 pm; Saint Francis Hospital, Conference Room A, 95 Woodland Street

READ US ONLINE!

The Hartford News is now available online! Go to [HartfordPublications.com](http://HartfordPublications.com) and click on current edition – or find us on Facebook under “Hartford News-Southside Media.” New editions are posted Wednesday evening.

WE CAN SEE YOUR PET AT NIGHT

EMERGENCIES 24 / 7

Sunday & Evening Well Care Appointments

PET E.R.

CONNECTICUT VETERINARY CENTER

860-233-8564

470 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford, CT

Locally Owned





## Elizabeth Park Greenhouse Show

The Elizabeth Park Conservancy will host a free Spring Greenhouse Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 6 through March 13. Included in the floral display are French hyacinths, muscari, tulips, daffodils, amaryllis, scented geraniums, pansies, trellised sweet peas, culinary herbs, nasturtiums, hanging baskets, and Spanish oregano, as well as a collection of tropical plants and succulents. The show will close out with a one-day plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. Plants may be purchased by cash or check only on the day of the sale. Visitors are asked to bring their own trays, boxes or carts to carry their plant purchases. The Conservancy is looking for volunteers to assist at the Plant Sale for both the 10 am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 2 pm shifts. If interested, please email your preferred shift(s) & task(s) to: [volunteer@elizabethparkct.org](mailto:volunteer@elizabethparkct.org).

## Library Works to Bridge Hartford's Digital Divide

On Thursday, February 27, Hartford Public Library hosted "Digital Learning Day," a reminder that the "digital divide" is not just an alliterative phrase but a reality that exists in many of Hartford neighborhoods.

In our city, only about 57 percent of households have internet access — there are 20,000 homes with no access at all. The impact is serious. As everything from job applications to government information and services migrate online, digital inclusion is becoming synonymous with economic inclusion.

"There's still just way too many families that don't have regular access," said Bridget Quinn-Carey, Hartford Public Library's chief executive officer. "There are information have and have nots."

Through Hartford Public Library's (HPL's) Crossroads to Connectivity (C2C) initiative, the Library is taking a two pronged approach to bridging the digital divide. "Our digital literacy goal is to help people be successful and to connect them to the resources they need," Quinn-Carey said.

Step one is the thoughtful distribution of laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots to qualified individuals who are working towards educational and career

goals. About 25 people are currently active the Library's Crossroads to Connectivity initiative and there is the hope that over 100 people will benefit from the program.

The second step, which is still in the planning phases, is the utilization of white space technology — the unused channels between television broadcasts — to provide broadband access to an underserved part of Hartford's North End.

Up and running for close to a year, Crossroads to Connectivity results are beginning to show. For a small group of focused and dedicated individuals, that laptop, that wi-fi hot spot, coupled with classes and programs, have become the keys to opportunity and a wider world.

### Personal Story: Tanisha

Tanisha Henriques describes herself as a connoisseur of learning, starting as a child going to Hartford Public Library's neighborhood libraries.

So when the time came to find a new career, the library was her first stop. Henriques took a couple of digital literacy training courses at the library, as well as online accounting and child development classes.

With her borrowed laptop and wi-fi hotspot, Henriques is preparing for

a long term position that suits her thirst for new ideas and her penchant for detail oriented work — bookkeeping.

"With the C2C program it has been really helpful because I am learning QuickBooks," Henriques said. "This has been really beneficial because with the C2C program I get to practice at home at a lot."

A laptop would be out of reach for Henriques financially, so access to the Library's equipment and programs have given her a much-needed start.

Henriques is now attending Capital Community College and will finish her bookkeeping class at the end of March. As soon as she's done, she'll get online and start applying for internships in her chosen field.

### Personal Story: Calvin

Hartford resident Calvin Hood cut short his high school education to join the military. He spent time in the Army, serving in Vietnam, and then did a subsequent tenure in the Navy. Upon his return to the States, Hood worked for the Post Office until retirement.

As time went on, it was clear to Hood that he had unfinished business. "I need the knowledge," Hood said.

Thanks to his work with HPL's Crossroads to Connectivity initiative, Calvin went from having no computer literacy to working towards his GED online — at the age of 73.

"I came out of the 19th century into the 21st century," he said.

After taking courses to become more adept with the computer, Calvin now uses it to study for his classes, do homework, and prepare for his all-important GED exams.

"It takes some getting used to. I am still not fluent as I want to be," he said.

Hood has completed one of the tests for his GED and will finish the remainder by the end of the summer. Once he has his GED, Hood plans to become certified to tutor people applying for American citizenship.

"With the support of the Library, it is like coming out of the dark," he said.

For more information about Hartford Public Library's programs and services, visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

## Deadline extended for Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

The deadline for the authorization of deliverable fuel (such as oil, kerosene, propane) has been extended from Monday, March 16, 2020 to Wednesday, April 1, 2020 for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). That is the last day for authorization requests and for unauthorized deliveries that can be paid from the Basic Benefit award.

The general deadline to apply for energy assistance via utilities (i.e., not deliverable fuel, such as gas and electric for heating purposes) is applications is May 1, 2020, however eligible households that are subject to a shut-off notice by a utility for heating bills have an extended deadline of May 15, 2020.

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program helps thousands of families every year. Last year, the Community Renewal Team (CRT) served more than 23,000 eligible households in Hartford and Middlesex Counties. In addition,

- CRT coordinated 14,652 fuel deliveries during the 2018-19 energy season; and that is 485 more deliveries than the prior year.
- CRT helped to distribute more than 2.49 million gallons of fuel during the 2018-19 energy season.
- And, during that time, the total annual savings per gallon was more than \$658,000.

Eligibility for the Energy Assistance Program is based on

household size, total gross household income, and assets. CRT staff speaks both English and Spanish, and they can help families to complete the application process.

### One-time Water-Assistance Grants Now Available

CRT is working with Operation Fuel to provide water-assistance grants to households in need. Operation Fuel received funding from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to administer one-time water-assistance grants of up to \$500 per household.

These water-assistance funds are available to households in need within their 29-town catchment area. The program opened last month, and applications are being accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

To qualify for water assistance, applicants must have one of the following criteria: a shut-off notice, have no water utility service, must need assistance with making a required payment in order to prevent a shut-off, or have a past due balance of 30 days or more.

Funding for this program is limited, so those who are interested should apply right away. Individuals can contact CRT's Energy Assistance Program for more information.

For more information about the Energy Assistance Program or the Water-Assistance Grants, please visit CRT's website: <http://www.crtct.org/en/need-help/basic-needs/energy-assistance>

## HPHS Museum

### Continued from page 2

many African-American students. But the archive is also home to the records and memorabilia of tens of thousands of students and former faculty members up to the present day. Old copies of classbooks, the "Owlet" student newspaper, and the "Chronicle" student literary magazine make for some fascinating reading. Hundreds of sports trophies

Center at the main Hartford Public Library, the HPHS Museum & Archive is a place where one could easily spend hours delving into the distant—and recent—past. It offers a fascinating visual feast. Certain donations to the collections are also accepted. For more information or to arrange a time to visit—either as an individual or as a group (class reunions frequently request a tour as part of their event), you can call




The 1904 Hartford Public High School basketball team, only 13 years after the sport was invented!

phies covering more than 100 years of school athletics are also on display. In HPHS's Lewis Fox Library, you can view impressive oil portraits of former school administrators. The archive is a splendid source of information on the school days of ancestors who attended there. Photography is allowed.

Not unlike the Hartford History

the museum phone at 860-695-1405, or email [hphs55@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:hphs55@sbcbglobal.net). Additionally, the "Friends of the HPHS Museum & Archive" supports the conservation goals of the museum, and a newsletter is sent out to members three times a year; if interested in joining, please use the same contact information.




**Hartford Public Library**  
A place like no other.

**2020 Census,  
Everyone Counts!**

**Need help with the 2020 Census? Visit  
Hartford Public Library for safe, confidential  
guidance.**

[www.hplct.org/census](http://www.hplct.org/census)

**United States  
Census  
2020**





## Applications Now Open for 2020 Love Your Block Grants

The City of Hartford is now accepting applications from residents and organizations for this year’s Love Your Block grants. Several grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to civic improvement projects of various kinds. While last year’s program focused on Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighborhood, this year grants will be awarded for projects in any part of the city.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 3; grant awardees will be announced Friday, April 24.



On Thursday, May 20, Mayor Luke Bronin officially kicked off the 2020 Love Your Block (LYB) program at Hartford City Hall. Shown with Bronin are 2019 LYB grant recipients Raul Irizarry, Naomi Ngoma, Logan Singerman and Delene Falcon, City of Hartford Community Engagement Director Janice Castle, 2019 LYB coordinator Paige Berschet and 2020 LYB coordinator Madeleine Hykes. (Hart photo)

- Proposals must:
- Be within the city of Hartford
  - Have a budget of \$1,000 or less
  - Include at least 10 volunteers; at least half of whom must come from the neighborhood where the project will be located
  - Highlight a unique aspect of the neighborhood where the project is located

On Wednesday, March 25, there will be an application workshop at the Free Center (formerly Goodwin Library), 460 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, at 6 pm. Information on project selection, volunteer recruiting and details of the application process will be available at the meeting.

The Love Your Block Program is funded by Cities Of Service (COS) out of New York City. Last year, Hartford was one of 10 cities chosen to receive \$2500 in Love Your Block funding plus two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to help run the program.

Love Your Block projects can take a wide variety of forms. Last year’s awardees included:

- The Art-Box Lot, a temporary lot beautification project, proposed by Raul Irizarry and Jose Figueroa
- The building of a playground on a vacant lot using brightly painted tires and wood, proposed by Logan Singerman and Delene Falcon
- The City for Good project, which installed benches made in Hartford from recycled pal-

- lets, proposed by Naomi Ngoma and Louisa Barton Duguay
- Improvements to the Grand Street Community Garden on Grand Street and educational events to promote health and wellness, proposed by Jameelah Muhammad and Rasheed Ali of the Muhammad Islamic Center of Greater Hartford
- The creation of a large mural on Wolcott Street, proposed by



### Charter Oak Presents The Vagina Monologues

Charter Oak Cultural Center presented its annual production of The Vagina Monologues on Friday, February 7. Written by Eve Ensler and first performed in 1996, the play examines a wide range of sexual experiences as viewed through the eyes of woman from several different age groups, ethnicities, sexual orientations and other differences. Charter Oak’s production this year was directed Melissa Otero, assisted by Emily Lasalle. Shown above are Emily Kellis, Melissa Dumont and Leah Bell. Other performers were Stephanie Johnson, Isabella Walls, Mary-Joyce Cusano, Laurie Grieder, Sydney Berman, Abby Hosley, Diana Bunting, Nicky McGuire, Simerpreet Lamba, Samariya Smith, Marie R. Altenor and Jennifer Holmes Weston. (Hart photo)



### Pop-Up Pie Shop on Pratt Street

On Thursday, February 20, Granny’s Pie Shop in East Hartford opened a “pop-up shop” on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford. Joan Harovas and Kerry Robertson staffed the shop, which did a very brisk business. The Pop-up Pie Shop will be open again later this month. (Hart photo)

### New Saturday hours at Wheeler Health Center

Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center, 43 Woodland Street, Hartford is now open on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm as well as on weekdays.

The center provides walk-in and scheduled care for a range of issues including:

- Cold and flu symptoms
- Aches and pains
- Minor cuts and bruises
- Behavioral health
- Addiction services

For more information, please call Wheeler’s Navigation Center at 860.793.3500.

now enrolling

3 & 4 year olds

Licensed, Full-Day, Year-Round

NAEYC Accredited

A Premier Child Development Center

Income Based Tuition

Experienced State Qualified Teachers

Age Appropriate Curriculum

Safe / Caring / Nurturing Culture

7:00 AM - 5:00PM, Monday - Friday

A Great Environment To

GROW | DEVELOP | DISCOVER

To Enroll Today Call 860-524-5969

[www.WomensLeagueCDC.org](http://www.WomensLeagueCDC.org)

Women’s League

Child Development Center

Where all children love to learn

and learn to love...while having fun



News Briefs

Continued from page 1

discuss careers in public service, including police; fire; deveopment services; health and human servic-es; finance; public works; human resources; management and bud-get; and families, youth, children and recreation. The event is free and open to the public.

Tech-Savvy Conference for Girls this Saturday

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host the 7th Annual Tech Savvy Conference this Saturday, March 7, from 8 am - 3 pm at Trinity College's McCook Auditorium, 300 Summit Street, Hartford. The conference is designed for girls in grades sixth though ninth who want to learn about careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). There will also be information for parents, guardians and teachers who want to promote interest among young women in STEM subjects. To register, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/vz7t9gw>.

Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow Meets March 9

Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow will meet Monday, March 9, at 6:00pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capital Avenue. Know Thy Neighbor brings together neighborhood residents, police officers, and fire fighters from Frog Hollow and vicinity to talk about community concerns

and work together to take action. For more info: [ktnfroghollow@gmail.com](mailto:ktnfroghollow@gmail.com) or 860-201-6510. Refreshments will be available at 5:45pm. Park in the church lot off of Hungerford Street and enter the building from the parking lot through the red door on the right.

SW/BTR NRZ Meets March 10

The South West/Behind The Rocks Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (SW/BTR-NRZ) will hold its monthly meeting at the Free Center (formerly The Goodwin Branch Library), 460 New Britain Ave., on March 10 at 6:00. Police Chief Jason Thody will be the special guest at the meeting, along with community service officers, Hartford Fire Dept, and the NRZ's Community Outreach Representative.

Gardening Workshop Series at Park Street Library

Hartford Public Library's Park Street Branch, 744 Park Street, will be offering gardening workshops for the next two Tuesdays, March 10 and 17, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Participants will learn different gardening techniques, tips, start seeds, and apply for a garden plot in the Affleck Street community garden.

MARG Meets March 12

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly

meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, March 12, in the lower level of St. Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. State Representative Joseph Verengia, chair of the legislature's Public Safety & Security Committee, will discuss juvenile crime. There will also be a presentation by the Hartford Preservation Alliance and a discussion of public safety in the neighborhood. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call MARG President Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

WFP Council Members to Host Community Discussion

Hartford City Council members Wildaliz Bermudez and Josh Michtom of the Working Families Party will host a community conversation on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 PM at the Free Center. 60 New Britain Avenue, Hartford. Bermudez and Michtom want to hear about what issues are of real concern to city residents and what some possible solutions might be.

Yard Goats Fan Fest March 28

The Hartford Yard Goats will host its third annual FanFest on Saturday, March 28th from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford. This free event is open to the public and will include behind the scenes tours of Dunkin' Donuts Park, arts & crafts, Yard Goats mascots Chompers and Chew Chew, and Fancy Pants the goat from Circle K Farm of East Hampton.

Fans will also have the opportunity to test out the indoor climate controlled professional batting cages that the Yard Goats use. The Yard Goats will also be collecting new and gently used baseball equipment (bats, gloves, cleats, etc.) for donation to Capital Preparatory Magnet School. Fans that donate will receive 10% off merchandise in the Retro Brand Team Store the day of FanFest.

Most of the festivities will be

held outside on the main concourse level of Dunkin' Donuts Park. Fans may enter FanFest through the main gates on the corner of Main Street and Trumbull Street, and no tickets are required for this free event. The Yard Goats

Retro Brand Team Store will also be open for those that want to purchase the latest Yard Goats gear. The Click It or Ticket Box Office will also be open for fans that want to purchase tickets to the Yard Goats and college games this season.

The Yard Goats open the 2020 season on Thursday, April 9 (7:10 PM) against the Boston Red Sox affiliate, the Portland Sea Dogs. Individual Tickets for all home games are now on sale at the Click It or Ticket Box Office at Dunkin' Donuts Park. Tickets can also be ordered over the phone by calling 860-246-4628 or online at [www.yardgoatsbaseball.com](http://www.yardgoatsbaseball.com).



Hartford Fire Department Earns International Accreditation

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) recently confirmed the Hartford Fire Department as an internationally accredited fire department, making it the first internationally accredited career fire department in New England. Internationally accredited departments are "often described as being community-focused, data-driven, outcome-focused, strategic-minded, well organized, properly equipped, and properly staffed and trained." There are approximately 26,000 fire departments in the United States, and only 87 are both interna-

tionally accredited and hold an ISO Class 1 designation, as the Hartford Fire Department does.

"The Hartford Fire Department has worked together for several years to earn this coveted milestone," said Fire Chief Reginald D. Freeman. "Numerous current and former members of the department have contributed their time, dedication, and commitment to this process. It is truly my honor and privilege to lead such an exceptional group of men and women and this achievement is a testament to their constant commitment to the pursuit of excellence and resiliency.

I want to thank Mayor Bronin for his consistent support of the Hartford Fire Department over the last four years, which has been crucial to earning accreditation."

The accreditation process involved the assessment of ten categories that cover the breadth of fire and emergency service operations, including: Governance and Administration, Assessment and Planning, Goals and Objectives, Financial Resources, Programs, Physical Resources, Human Resources, Training and Competency, Essential Resources, & External Systems Relationship.

What's Going On At Hartford Schools

Continued from page 2

Land, far from the reality of those in the trenches at our urban schools. Should some teachers be culled out? Probably, and there are peer review processes that can take care of that. But let's go back to that old adage: "The fish rots from the head down." Policy starts at the top with the SoS and filters down through layers of Assistant and Deputy Superintendents, Directors, and other officials at 960 Main Street. Then it reaches the in-school administrators—

Principals and Assistant Principals—and finally to the educators and ancillary staff; the people who work directly with the students on a daily basis. Teachers are not the villains here; bad policies are. Widespread poverty also plays a role. And then we have the Board of Education whose number one priority should be what is best for Hartford's school-children, instead of being apologists for Central Office, and their abysmal record of poor decision-making.

You want to reconstitute some-

thing? Then start with your own lofty perch on Main Street.

To learn more about the reconstituting of public schools, you can go to

[http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/School\\_Reconstruction\\_and\\_an\\_Education\\_Reform\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/School_Reconstruction_and_an_Education_Reform_Strategy.pdf)

*The opinions expressed here are from the standpoint of my work as a journalist and as a city resident, and do not reflect my employment at any other entities, or their mis-sions.*

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

her to grow a spine, and go on the record with her complaints. Crying to me every day wasn't going to change anything.

February 29th I sent an email to my supervisor at CVH. I documented what I believe is a structured effort by employees to manufacture an incident in an attempt to discredit me, due to my grassroots political organizing against racism and workplace bullying at CVH Whiting. I explained my refusal to socialize with white co-

workers who undermined my Black supervisor, who left CVH after just seven months in 2019. I forwarded my email to Sen. Somers and the task force.

I don't think that Black people have any obligation to make racists feel comfortable. I watched these clerks run off the best supervisor that we ever had, because she is Black. Management helped them to do this. These clerks were rewarded for their racist behavior. That's wrong. You reap what you sow. The ringleader of the white clerks, who openly defied and

insulted our Black supervisor, is huffing and puffing because I won't play nice and socialize with people who have engaged in unrepentant racist, bullying behavior for ten years. Sorry, I won't run into your arms now that you're pretending to modify your behavior, coincidentally as the task force is meeting every month and will make policy recommendations to legislators at the end of 2020. Myself and other Blacks who are speaking out won't conform, so you all can return to racism as usual.



# IMMANUEL HOUSE

Our House, Your Home

**Immanuel House offers housing and supportive services to persons ages 62 and older. We are devoted to providing exceptional service and social and recreational opportunities for our residents.**

**Call Today to Schedule a Tour!**  
**860-525-4228 Ext. 22**

**122 efficiency apartments | 68 one-bedroom apartments**  
**Convenience Store | Restaurant-style Dining**  
**HUD Best Practices Award**

**For More Information, Visit our Website!**  
**[www.immanuelhousect.org](http://www.immanuelhousect.org)**









# El Informativo Latino

## Gobernador Lamont habla sobre coronavirus: “Connecticut está listo y nosotros lo hemos estado desde hace tiempo.”

*Lamont está confiado en que el estado se preparado bien para una posible pandemia de coronavirus*

Funcionarios locales y estatales están trabajando juntos para prepararse para la posible propagación del coronavirus en el estado.

En una conferencia de prensa el miércoles en la Armería del Estado, el gobernador Ned Lamont expresó que Connecticut está preparado para combatir la propagación del coronavirus cuando llegue al estado.

Asegurándonos de que podemos proporcionar todo el apoyo que podamos para nuestros hospitales y nuestros proveedores de atención médica, asegurándonos de que estén listos para obtener todos los suministros y el personal que necesitan”, dijo Lamont.

Los funcionarios de salud dijeron

que esta no es una operación de último minuto, han estado trabajando en el monitoreo y la preparación para el coronavirus desde enero.

Quiero que el público esté seguro de que los hospitales están prepara-

mente, planificamos y entrenamos para el brote de enfermedades”, dijo el CEO de la Asociación de Hospitales de Connecticut, Jennifer Jackson.

Lamont dijo que el sistema médi-



dos para atender a pacientes con Connecticut, esto es lo que hacen los hospitales, nos preparamos regular-

co del estado tiene el equipo que los proveedores de salud y seguridad pública pueden necesitar para responder a un brote, como guantes, máscaras filtrantes y trajes protectores.

Será como una gripe estacional, vendrá, pasará y tendremos que tomar precauciones que no hemos tenido que hacer antes porque no habrá vacuna”, dijo el epidemiólogo estatal DPH, Dr. Matthew Cartter.

Hasta la fecha, 60 personas se han infectado con el virus en los EE. UU. Ha habido una persona en Nueva Inglaterra, Massachusetts, pero hasta ahora, no hay casos en Connecticut.

Los identificaremos, los aislaremos y los trataremos, estamos preparados para atender a estos pacientes”, dijo Jackson.



## HEZBA Annual Luncheon

On Friday, February 29, the Hartford Enterprize Zone Business Association (HEZBA) held its Annual Luncheon and Awards Banquet at Uptown Vibz on Main Street in Hartford's North End. Entertainment was provided by the Hartford Hot Several Band (above). Among the guests (below) were Rev. Henry Brown, Director of Mothers United Against Violence, WFSB Anchor Dennis House, and photographer and hot air balloonist Bill Costen. (Hart photo)



## Baby Grand Jazz Series Continues Sunday with the Afro-Semetic Experience

The Baby Grand Jazz Series at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford, will continue this Sunday, March 8, with a free performance by the Afro-Semetic Experience. The locally-based group plays a highly accessible ethnic world music mix.

Baby Grand Jazz Concerts will be held every Sunday through April 26 (except for Easter Sunday, April 19th), from 3 – 4 pm (doors open at 2 pm).

## 2020 Baby Grand Jazz Schedule

March 15	Iris Ornig Quintet
March 22	Haneef N. Nelson Quintet
March 29	Ricky Alfonso Group
April 5	Envisage Collective
April 12	Easter (No concert)
April 19	The Joe Carter Samba Rio Quarteto
April 26	TAEKO

**La Diferente Radio**

**Las Mas Caliente**

**WILFREDO AYALA**  
General Manager

**Tel: 860-796-4293**  
**563 Franklin Avenue**  
**Hartford, CT**  
**LadiferenteRadio@gmail.com**  
**www.ladiferenteradio.com**



## 2 and 3-BR Apartments for Rent

## NORTHEND GATEWAY

## Great Hartford apartments near Downtown

Come see NorthEnd Gateway at 1450 Main Street. Come view our units with ultra modern energy-efficient appliances, including microwave, oven, dishwasher, refrigerator and washer/dryer included in each apartment. Central AC in each unit. Handicapped units available. Ample on-site parking. INCOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY.



**Call 860-547-1111 or visit us online at [www.carabetta.com](http://www.carabetta.com)**



**We Don't Just Make Cheese Steaks. We Make People's Days!**

**Try one of our specials or build your own!**

**PLUS burgers, grinders, salads and five kinds of fries!**



**2053 Park Street • Hartford • (860) 216-1690**  
**11:30 am – 9:00 pm - Open until 11pm Fri and Sat**